

March 15, 2002

Questions And Answers Regarding Environmental Contamination At Fort Funston

Issue: Lead and Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination was recently discovered at a 6-acre location at Fort Funston. The 6 acres are within a closed area.

Steps to Date: Ground sampling and screenings for human health concerns completed in late January 2002, which showed no adverse impacts to short-term or long-term human or canine visitors.

Have the Army and City been contacted? Yes, informally they have been made aware of this issue.

What are the next steps? Having concluded screenings for human health concerns, the NPS will next complete an ecological risk assessment, which will detail possible risks to non-human, i.e., natural resources. The park will then discuss the results of both assessments with the regulators and determine appropriate next steps.

What about my dog's health? The results of the screenings for human health concerns concluded that there were no adverse health impacts anticipated for children, which would also address the question of canines. The study used very conservative exposure assumptions, including increased ingestion and dermal contact by children and dogs as compared with adults.

Does the study consider the exposure to humans and animals as it relates only to Fort Funston or does it address cumulative exposure? The risk assessment is conservative; it assumes that you receive exposure elsewhere to lead and PAHs, not just at Fort Funston.

If there are no adverse effects, then why can't the park volunteers return to work in the 12-acre closure? For many reasons....

- The park needs to know more about what the recommended remedial action would be before extensive native plant restoration is done.
- The park wants to be conservative in protection of park visitors, including park volunteers.
- Testing was done to a depth of 6 inches; there may be more significant contamination below that level. Volunteers would probably reach that depth when removing non-native vegetation or planting native vegetation.
- The area's profile is constantly changing, with moving sand dunes and erosion, which may reveal new areas of contamination.

What about areas outside the 12-acre closure – were they tested? Isolated bullet casings were found just outside of the closure area. The park tested two locations just east of the closure area and found no contamination.

Will there be testing in other locations at Fort Funston? No wide scale testing is planned at this time. Limited additional sampling may be conducted at other locations where native plant restoration may occur.

What should the public do if they find spent bullet casings, skeet or unexploded ordnance? These items have the potential to be found at any parkland that was formerly military land. The public is encouraged to contact the park communications center if they observe unusual items such as bullets, broken skeet, and/or unexploded ordnance. The park communications center telephone number is 415-561-5656.

Will volunteers ever be allowed into the 12-acre area again? The park may be able to consider it in the future when there is more information on the recommended remedial action.